24.956 Topics in Syntax: Antilocality

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fall 2023

Instructor:	Ksenia Ershova
Contact:	`kershova@mit.edu`
Office hours:	By appointment (`Calendly link`)
Canvas:	`https://canvas.mit.edu/courses/23127`
Class schedule:	R 2-5
Location:	66-148

Description of the Course

One of the fundamental constraints on movement is that it cannot be too long – the most radical version of this constraint is that movement should be *as short as possible* (e.g. Minimize Chain Links Principle; Chomsky and Lasnik 1993). This seminar is concerned with the other side of this theoretical coin: *how short can movement be?* Is there a lower bound on movement dependencies and how is it determined?

This seminar will discuss the main theories of antilocality (= proposals that movement cannot be too short), their theoretical underpinnings, and the empirical phenomena they are meant to explain. We will discuss how antilocality constraints interact with fundamental components of syntactic theory, such as locality domains, the driving forces of movement, economy constraints, the role of Last Resort operations, repair mechanisms, and constraints on movement chains. The discussion will touch on a broad range of empirical phenomena: preposition stranding, subject extraction and complementizer-trace effects, islandhood effects and subextraction, parasitic gaps, intervention and constraints on argument structure.

A baseline goal for the class is to develop a coherent understanding of the empirical and theoretical landscape of antilocality theories. A more aspirational goal is to collaboratively arrive at a consensus on the status of antilocality constraints in grammar: which, if any, of the proposed constraints should be part of UG, are they conceptually motivated in a satisfying way, and what implications do they have for syntactic theory more broadly?

Requirements

1. Reading assigned literature and participation in class discussion.

2. Final paper on a topic related to the class content. Includes a written up text (10–15 pages) and in-class presentation at the end of the semester.

Class plan (subject to change)

The plan may be adjusted based on how the discussion develops and the participants' preferences.

Part 1: Proposals and fundamentals

- Origins (Frampton 1990; Bošković 1994, 1997; Saito and Murasugi 1999)
- Phrase-internal antilocality (Abels 2003, 2012)
- Domain-sensitive antilocality (Grohmann 2003, 2011)
  (+ *critique by* Fitzpatrick 2005; Hagstrom 2006; Boeckx 2007, 2008)
- Spec-to-spec antilocality (Bošković 2015, 2016; Erlewine 2016, 2020)
  (+ *critique by* Henderson and Coon 2018)

Part 2: Implementations and extensions

- Head movement versus phrasal movement (Pesetsky and Torrego 2001; Funakoshi 2014)
- Comp-trace effects, antiagreement, and subject extraction (Schneider-Zioga 2007; Amaechi and Georgi 2019; Martínez Vera 2019; Pesetsky 2021)
  (+ *selection from* Pesetsky and Torrego 2001; Baier 2017; Bošković 2011; Sato and Dobashi 2016; Pesetsky 2017; McFadden and Sundaresan 2018)
- Constraints on (sub)extraction (Ticio 2005; Bošković 2016; Davis 2020; Zyman 2021; Toquero-Pérez 2022)
- Antilocality and parasitic gaps (Arregi and Murphy 2022; Davis 2023)
- Argument structure and intervention (Deal 2019; Newman 2020; Branan 2023)
- Agreement and antilocality (Fritzsche 2023)

Part 3: Tensions and challenges

- Antisymmetry and roll-up movement (Moro 2000; Aboh 2004; Barrie 2011; Abels and Neeleman 2012)
- "Every phrase is a phase" and very local movement (Müller 2011)

Students with Documented Disabilities

MIT is committed to the principle of equal access. Students who need disability accommodations are encouraged to speak with Disability and Access Services (DAS), prior to or early in the semester so that accommodation requests can be evaluated and addressed in a timely fashion. If you have a disability and are not planning to use accommodations, it is still recommended that you meet with DAS staff to familiarize yourself with their services and resources. Please visit the DAS website for contact information.

If you have already been approved for accommodations, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

I am committed to making this class a safe and welcome space for all participants. If there are any concerns you wish to raise, please reach out to me directly, or via the anonymous survey link provided below. As a participant of this course, I ask that you strive to maintain a respective environment and honor the diversity of your fellow classmates. For additional resources, please explore the links below:

1. `https://hr.mit.edu/diversity-equity-inclusion`

2. `https://studentlife.mit.edu/impact-opportunities/diversity-inclusion`

3. `https://linguistics.mit.edu/diversity-statement/`

Anonymous survey: `https://forms.gle/tQWCoNnj4TMR81ecA`

References

Abels, Klaus. 2003. Successive cyclicity, anti-locality, and adposition stranding. PhD diss, University of Connecticut.

Abels, Klaus. 2012. *Phases: An essay on cyclicity in syntax*. De Gruyter.

Abels, Klaus, and Ad Neeleman. 2012. Linear asymmetries and the LCA. *Syntax* 15 (1): 25–74.

Aboh, Enoch O. 2004. *The morphosyntax of complement-head sequences: Clause structure and word order patterns in Kwa*. Oxford University Press.

Amaechi, Mary, and Doreen Georgi. 2019. Quirks of subject (non-)extraction in Igbo. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 4 (1): 1–36. doi:10.5334/gjgl.607.

Arregi, Karlos, and Andrew Murphy. 2022. Argument-internal parasitic gaps. `https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006856`.

Baier, Nico. 2017. Antilocality and antiagreement. *Linguistic Inquiry* 48 (2): 367–377.

Barrie, Michael. 2011. *Dynamic antisymmetry and the syntax of noun incorporation*. Springer.

Boeckx, Cedric. 2007. Some notes on bounding. *Language Research* 43 (1): 35–52.

Boeckx, Cedric. 2008. *Understanding minimalist syntax*. Blackwell.

Bošković, Željko. 1994. D-structure, Theta-Criterion, and movement into theta-positions. *Linguistic Analysis* 24 (3–4): 247–286.

Bošković, Željko. 1997. *The syntax of nonfinite complementation: An economy approach*. MIT Press.

Bošković, Željko. 2011. Rescue by pf deletion, traces as (non)interveners, and the that-trace effect. *Linguistic Inquiry* 42 (1): 1–44.

Bošković, Željko. 2015. From the Complex NP Constraint to everything: On deep extractions across categories. *The Linguistic Review* 32 (4): 603–669.

Bošković, Željko. 2016. On the timing of labeling: Deducing comp-trace effects, the Subject Condition, the Adjunct Condition, and tucking in from labeling. *The Linguistic Review* 33 (1): 17–66.

Branan, Kenyon. 2023. Locality and antilocality: The logic of conflicting requirements. *Linguistic Inquiry* 54 (1): 1–38.

Chomsky, Noam, and Howard Lasnik. 1993. The theory of principles and parameters. In *Syntax: An international handbook of contemporary research*, eds. Joachim Jacobs, Arnim von Stechow, Wolfgang Sternefeld, and Theo Vennemann, 506–569. Mouton de Gruyter.

Davis, Colin. 2023. The restricted interaction of parasitic gaps and subjects is explained by anti-locality. Ms. https://ling.auf.net/lingbuzz/006940.

Davis, Colin Pierce Bryon. 2020. The linear limitations of syntactic derivations. PhD diss, MIT.

Deal, Amy Rose. 2019. Raising to ergative: Remarks on applicatives of unaccusatives. *Linguistic Inquiry* 50 (2): 388–415.

Erlewine, Michael Yoshitaka. 2016. Anti-locality and optimality in Kaqchikel agent focus. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 34: 429–479.

Erlewine, Michael Yoshitaka. 2020. Anti-locality and subject extraction. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 5 (1): 84.

Fitzpatrick, Justin M. 2005. Prolific domains: On the anti-locality of movement dependencies. by Kleanthes K. Grohmann. *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* 17 (1): 39–75.

Frampton, John. 1990. Parasitic gaps and the theory of *wh*-chains. *Linguistic Inquiry* 21 (1): 49–77.

Fritzsche, Rosa. 2023. Anti-local agree and cyclicity. In *Cyclicity*, eds. Mariia Privizentseva, Felicitas Andermann, and Gereon Müller. Vol. 95 of *Linguistische arbeits berichte*, 273–296. Universität Lepzig.

Funakoshi, Kenshi. 2014. Syntactic head movement and its consequences. PhD diss, University of Maryland.

Grohmann, Kleanthes. 2003. *Prolific domains: On the anti-locality of movement*. John Benjamins. doi:10.1075/la.66.

Grohmann, Kleanthes. 2011. Anti-locality: Too-close relations in grammar. In *The Oxford handbook of linguistic minimalism*, ed. Cedric Boeckx, 260–290. OUP.

Hagstrom, Paul. 2006. Kleanthes K. Grohmann, Prolific domains: On the anti-locality of movement dependencies. *Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics* 9: 217–228.

Henderson, Robert, and Jessica Coon. 2018. Adverbs and variability in Kaqchikel agent focus: A reply to Erlewine (2016). *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 36: 149–173.

Martínez Vera, Gabriel. 2019. Phases, labeling, antilocality and intonational phrases: recomplementation in Spanish. *Probus* 31 (1): 187–231.

McFadden, Thomas, and Sandhya Sundaresan. 2018. What the EPP and comp-trace effects have in common: Constraining silent elements at the edge. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 3 (1): 43. doi:10.5334/gjgl.419.

Moro, Andrea. 2000. *Dynamic antisymmetry*. MIT Press.

Müller, Gereon. 2011. *Constraints on displacement: A phase-based approach*. John Benjamins.

Newman, Elise. 2020. Facilitator effects in middles and more. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 5 (1). `https://doi.org/10.5334/gjgl.990`.

Pesetsky, David. 2017. Complementizer-trace effects. In *The Wiley Blackwell companion to syntax*, eds. Martin Everaert and Henk C. van Riemsdijk. John Wiley and Sons, Inc..

Pesetsky, David. 2021. Exfoliation: towards a derivational theory of clause size. `https://lingbuzz.net/lingbuzz/004440`.

Pesetsky, David, and Esther Torrego. 2001. T to C movement: Causes and consequences. In *Ken Hale: A life in language*, ed. Michael Kenstowicz, 355–426. MIT Press.

Saito, Mamuro, and Keiko Murasugi. 1999. Subject predication within IP and DP. In *Beyond Principles and Parameters*, eds. Kyle Johnson and Ian Roberts, 167–188. Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Sato, Yosuke, and Yoshihito Dobashi. 2016. Prosodic phrasing and the that-trace effect. *Linguistic Inquiry* 47 (2): 333–349.

Schneider-Zioga, Patricia. 2007. Anti-agreement, anti-locality and minimality. *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* 25: 403–446.

Ticio, M. Emma. 2005. Locality and anti-locality in Spanish DPs. *Syntax* 8 (3): 229–286.

Toquero-Pérez, Luis Miguel. 2022. Revisiting extraction and subextraction patterns from arguments. *Linguistic Variation* 22 (1): 123–207.

Zyman, Erik. 2021. Antilocality and the phase edge. *Syntax* 24 (4): 510–556.